

Prof. Henny J.G.L.M. Lamers, University of Amsterdam

Report of research visit to University of Washington, Seattle,

April 30 – July 2, 2018

From April 30 to July 2 I visited the Department of Astronomy of the University of Washington in Seattle. I was invited by Prof Emily Levesque, my co-author of the recently published textbook “Understanding Stellar Evolution”, published by the Institute of Physics.

- A. I taught part of the graduate course Astr 531 (Stellar Structure and Evolution) together with E. Levesque.
I attended all classes of this course to answer questions and take part in discussions.
I also organized a question-hour at the end of the course.

- B. I started a theoretical research project on the effect of rotation on the triggering of instabilities in Luminous Blue Variables.
This project was largely completed during stay in Seattle.
A publication “The effect of rotation on the instabilities in Luminous Blue Variables” (Levesque and Lamers) for ApJ is in preparation.

- C. We started the preparations for an observational polarization study of circumstellar matter around LBVs, for which we obtained observing time on the VLT (Lomax, Levesque, Lamers).
The goal of this study is to verify the results of the theoretical study (mentioned in B).

- D. On May 22 I gave a lunch-talk :
“Supermassive stars as an explanation for the strange abundance patterns in globular clusters”

- E. On June 14 I gave two lessons at the Sakai Intermediate School on Bainbridge Island for the children of class 5 (age 9-11) and 6 (age 10-12):
“Sun, stars and planets”
“Stars: their birth, life and death”
Afterwards I received very enthusiastic reactions from the teachers and the children.

The visit can be considered “successful”.

Henny, Lamers,

Bilthoven, August 14, 2018